

Co-Chairpersons: Supervisor Tim Johnson and James White  
Committee Clerk: Linda Durham, 278-4225  
Research Analyst: Rob Henken, 278-4826

**MILWAUKEE COUNTY TASK FORCE  
ON  
SEGREGATION AND RACE RELATIONS  
Wednesday, April 30, 2003 - 3:00 PM**

**Milwaukee County Courthouse, Room 203-R**

**M I N U T E S**

TAPE No. 1: Side A, #015 to end of tape  
TAPE No. 1: Side B, #001 to end of tape  
TAPE No. 2: Side A, #001 to #151

PRESENT: Supervisors Broderick, Cesarz, White (Co-Chair) and T. Johnson (Co-Chair)

EXCUSED: Supervisors Zielinski, W. Johnson and Mayo

**Scheduled Items:**

**1. 03SRR1 Introductions and Task Force Objective.**

County Board Supervisors on this Task Force introduced themselves and indicated the district they represent.

Supervisor T. Johnson indicated that 2013 will mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the March on Washington and Martin Luther King Jr. 's "I Have a Dream" speech. The primary charge of the Task Force is to study and recommend ways to reduce racial segregation and improve race relations in Metropolitan Milwaukee by developing a 10-year plan with concrete outcomes, objectives and strategies by 2013. The Task Force will solicit input and advice from representatives of other levels of government, the educational community, the business community and interested citizens. A report, containing the 10-year plan to reduce racial segregation, will be submitted to the County Executive and County Board by September 30, 2003.

Supervisor T. Johnson advised that the Task Force meeting today will consist of presentations. Future meetings will be testimonial in nature.

## Scheduled Items (Continued):

2. 03SRR2 County Executive Comments.

County Executive Scott Walker appeared and made brief comments relative to children and their innocence to racism. He emphasized his support for the work of this Task Force.

3. 03SRR3 Presentation by Dr. Nicholas Creary, Marquette University.

Dr. Creary stated that he is an African Historian by trade. He elaborated on how and when racism began.

Questions and comments ensued.

4. 03SRR4 Presentation by Dr. Marc Levine, University of Wisconsin-Marquette.

Dr. Levine, Professor and Director of the Center for Economic Development at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, indicated that there is a failure of leadership in the Milwaukee community to confront racial issues. Dr. Levine addressed the basic issues of segregation in Milwaukee County via a power point presentation (copy attached to the original of these minutes).

Questions and comments ensued.

5. 03SRR5 Presentation by Mr. John Gurda, Local Writer and Historian.

Mr. Gurda provided details about the history of African Americans in Milwaukee before and after the Civil War, after World War II, from the 1950's to the 1970's and from the 1980's (during the recession) up until this point.

Mr. Gurda commended the Task Force for tackling the problem of racism, an issue that is difficult to talk about with equanimity, but one that is absolutely crucial to the future of the Milwaukee community.

6. 03SRR6 Next Meeting Date.

The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2003 at 1:00 PM in Room 203-R.

This meeting was recorded on tape, which is available for audit upon prior request of the Committee Clerk. The foregoing matters were not necessarily considered in agenda order and any written documents submitted may be reviewed upon request of the Committee Clerk. The official copy of these minutes is available in the County Board office.

**Scheduled Items (Continued):**

Adjourned: 5:30 p.m.

Linda Durham, Committee Clerk